

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, reconsideration is requested.

By the above amendments, claims 26, 31 and 35-37 have been canceled. These claims have been rejected by the Examiner as being indefinite. Accordingly, because of the indication of the allowance of the remaining claims, all of the claims now pending in the present application are clearly in condition for allowance, and the application as a whole is also in condition for allowance.

The cancellation of the above amendments has been made to expedite the allowance of the application. However, such should not be taken as any acquiescence to the positions argued by the Examiner in the Examiner's response to arguments set forth in section 1 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Nor should it be taken as acquiescence to the consideration of claims 26, 31 and 35-37 as being indefinite.

In the first paragraph of section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Watanabe does not meet the limitation "such that a circumference of a cross section of the loop shaped workpiece, taken in the thickness direction of the loop shape workpiece, is substantially concurrently contacted with the transfer film at the transfer initiating site."

However, the Examiner's statement beginning in the second paragraph of section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action is not agreed with. The requirements that the Examiner imposes upon the limitations are in fact not required. As has been previously discussed and as is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art, there are certainly other positions in which an operation meets the quoted limitation. The Examiner's sentence scanning pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action is not correct. As would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art, the limitations can be met from a number of different positions as are clearly explained in the present application.

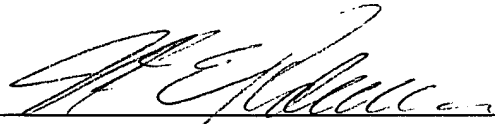
Thus, the indefiniteness rejection of claims 26, 31 and 35-37 is also not agreed with. However, in order to speed the prosecution of this application and its eventual allowance, these claims have now been canceled. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of the claim limitations, and submit that they are in fact not so-limited. Applicant and the Examiner do, however, agree upon the fact that claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 39, 40, 42 and 45-48 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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